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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/635,141	08/09/2000	Mitsunori Nodono	Q60353	5577

7590 04/13/2006

Sughrue Mion Zinn MacPeak & Seas  
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20037

EXAMINER
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COLE, ELIZABETH M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1771

DATE MAILED: 04/13/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Art Unit: 1771

1. Appellant failed to timely respond to the examiner's answer mailed on 4/18/05 that included a new ground of rejection mailed on 4/18/05. Under 37 CFR 41.39(b), if an examiner's answer contains a rejection designated as a new ground of rejection, appellant must, within two months from the date of the examiner's answer, file either: (1) a request that prosecution be reopened by filing a reply under 37 CFR 1.111; or (2) a request that the appeal be maintained by filing a reply brief under 37 CFR 41.41 addressing each new ground of rejection, to avoid *sua sponte* dismissal of the appeal as to the claims subject to the new ground of rejection. In view of appellant's failure to file a reply under 37 CFR 1.111 or a reply brief within the time period required by 37 CFR 41.39, the appeal as to claim 10 is **dismissed, and this claim is canceled**.

Only claims 6,7,8,11-18,28,31,48 remain in the application. The appeal continues as to these remaining claims. The application will be forwarded to the Board after mailing of this communication.

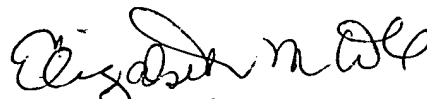
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Elizabeth M. Cole whose telephone number is (571) 272-1475. The examiner may be reached between 6:30 AM and 6:00 PM Monday through Wednesday, and 6:30 AM and 2 PM on Thursday.

Mr. Terrel Morris, the examiner's supervisor, may be reached at (571) 272-1478.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Art Unit: 1771

The fax number for all official faxes is (571) 273-8300.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth M. Cole".

Elizabeth M. Cole  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 1771

e.m.c